



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



SDDVA'S RYAN FOWLER PRESENTS APM TO DECEASED VETERAN'S WIFE

SDDVA's Ryan Fowler had the distinct honor to present Lavon Lidel with her late husband Philip's Korean Ambassador Peace Medal. Small world — this woman has been working to get the medal for her deceased husband

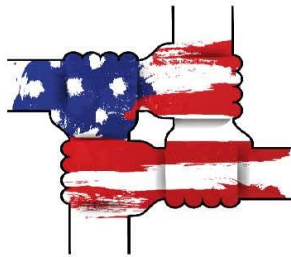
American's Veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country and it is never too late to thank them for their courage, service & commitment to protecting our citizens and the freedoms we cherish.

Today – and every day – it's important that we rededicate ourselves to serving our veterans as well as they have served us. Their service is what keeps America the best country in the world.



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OPERATION ENGAGE AMERICA

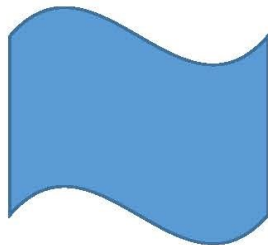
A Resource Fair for Veterans, Transitioning Service Members, First Responders and their families and for those in the community who want to help or learn more about their issues

Open House Resource Fair

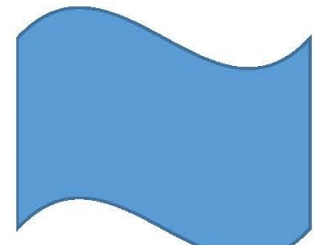
Post -Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury

Providing Resources Education and Awareness

Bringing local veterans and their families together, and connecting them with support and resources available to them in the community regarding PTS/TBI



1:00pm-4:00 pm
Saturday June 18th, 2016
Long Lines Family Rec Center
401 Gordon Drive
Sioux City, IA 51102



Musical Entertainment

"Siouxland Youth Chorus"

Keynote speakers

Special Guest **Abigail Calkin "The Soul of My Soldier"** Familius Publishing

Sponsored by Support Siouxland Soldiers

Colonel Timothy Glynn, Deputy Chief of Staff, Iowa Army National Guard.

Chris Kingsley, Veteran and Central Iowa VA Peer Support Specialist

Tom Eakin Veteran

12 year old Arika Hammond who volunteers with the Puppy Jake Foundation

Rhonda Jordal, Director, Family Alliance for Veterans of America (FAVA)

Optional Workshop led by Tom Eakin – Brotherhood Trust and Love

Gift cards, compliments of Support Siouxland Soldiers

Popcorn, compliments of Jolly Time Pop Corn

(while supplies last)

Open to the public free of charge

For any questions contact: Lisa@operationengageamerica.org cell: 515-984-0661

Website: www.operationengageamerica.org

Operation Engage America is a 501(c)3 organization: 47-4032547

NEW CAP REGIONAL COMMANDER APPOINTED

Civil Air Patrol National Commander Major General Joe Vazquez announced Colonel Regina Aye has been appointed to command the North Central Region (NCR). The North Central Region is made up of the CAP Wings in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The region has over 4,000 dedicated members of which over 2,300 are emergency responders. NCR operates 54 corporate aircraft and 120 emergency response vehicles.

Gen. Vazquez said: "Colonel Aye was selected from an outstanding group of nominees. Her considerable skills and dedication to CAP made her the correct choice for this critical position."

Col. Aye has been a member of CAP since 1989. She has served in several leadership positions, among them as Kansas Wing Commander and later as Vice Commander of the North Central Region.

Col. Aye has earned many CAP awards and decorations including the Distinguished Service Award and the Exceptional Service Award with 5 clasps. Her awards also include the Gill Rob Wilson, Paul A Garber and General Carl A. Spaatz awards. Colonel Aye is an active Emergency Responder. She holds several ratings in the nation's Incident Command structure including: Ground Branch Director, Safety Officer and Public Information Officer. She is a graduate of the Air Force's prestigious Air Command and Staff College.

In her professional life, Col. Aye, who resides in Osage, Kansas, is the Dean for on-line learning at Allen Community College. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA from Baker University, earned a Master's Degree from Emporia State University and a Ph.D. from Baker University.



WILEY HANDING OVER THE REIGNS

Mike Wiley, Day County VSO will be leaving the county later this month to journey on a new endeavor. Kevin Bohn (not SDDVA's Kevin Bowen), has accepted the position as Day County CVSO and began his duties June 1. The contact information and office hours remain the same. SDDVA Welcomes Kevin to the network and wishes Mike the best on his new endeavors.

Kevin was born in Webster and graduated from Webster High school in 1974, Bohn enlisted in the Army in 1977 and was commissioned in 1985. In 2005, Kevin deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom IV. He retired lieutenant colonel, with over 35 years of service.



IRONS DELIVERS POWERFUL MESSAGE AT MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM IN CANTON

SDDVA Field Officer Michael Maske attended the Memorial Day program in Canton where Susan Irons, veterans service officer for Lincoln and Union Counties, was the keynote speaker.

As a veteran who works with veterans every day, Irons says she felt qualified to say that “even though we got to come back home, there is a part of us that we left behind on the battlefield. I might even be so bold as to say that a part of us died during our time in war.”

“When we come back home, we are changed. What was normal before, isn’t anymore. We see life through a different lens now that we are back from the war. That lens is different for each returning veteran. And the lens can change over time. For some, the lens gives clarity and maturity and we have a strength that gives us the courage to accomplish things that we would have never dreamed possible prior to the war. Then, there is the lens that gives us blurry vision. Why was I in this war? Did my service make any difference to anyone? Why did I come back and others didn’t? I miss the people from my unit. Why didn’t I stay in? And finally, there is the lens that is the hardest to talk about. The black lens. The lens that lets no light in. The lens that no one wants. Why can’t anyone understand me? Why am I even here? Nothing I do matters in the civilian world. Why can’t I forget about the bad things that I saw? Why am I alive? I should have died during the war, too.”

Irons goal in talking about the lenses was to provide everyone with a better understanding of what our veterans are feeling every day.

In closing, Irons stated, “let us remember that those who gave their lives, have charged us, a grateful nation, to aid and assist those that were left behind. Let us honor them by opening our hearts to understand and to help their fellow comrades that are amongst us here today.”

She encouraged everyone to educate themselves on the issues concerning our veterans.

Irons challenged all attendees to honor the lives of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.



VA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, LEANIN.ORG

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Center for Women Veterans has announced a partnership with [LeanIn.Org](http://leanin.org), the nonprofit organization founded by Facebook Chief Operating Officer, Sheryl Sandberg, to empower women to achieve their ambitions. Building on the successful launch of [LeanIn.Org Circles](http://leanincircles.org) within the Department of Defense, the VA is following the same model to increase support to women veterans.

The VA initiative is called the [LeanIn.Org Women Veterans' chapter](http://leanin.org). The Women Veterans Chapter is comprised of two distinct pilot programs: the Veteran-to-Veteran program, a virtual program, which allows any woman veteran to participate, no matter where she is located; meetings will be moderated and attended by women veterans throughout the United States. The second is a face-to-face pilot circle. The face-to-face program is created in partnership with the existing [LeanIn.Org](http://leanin.org) chapter in Seattle, WA. This circle is an innovative hybrid of women veterans and non-military members providing an environment for both to learn and share leadership skills.

"We are thrilled to have [LeanIn.Org](http://leanin.org) as our collaborative partner," said Kayla M. Williams, Director of VA's Center for Women Veterans. "For many years, women veterans have expressed to us that they need to have a mechanism to engage with their fellow women veterans to make a difference in their community and we believe this is the perfect match. The VA is pleased to be a part of these two pilot programs."

"Women are the fastest growing population of our nation's veterans and through this Circles program, these women will have the peer support and community they need to reach their goals," said Ashley Finch, [LeanIn.Org](http://leanin.org), Head of Partnerships. "[Leanin.Org](http://leanin.org) is proud to be a part of this groundbreaking and important initiative."

More information can be found at:

http://leanincircles.org/faqs?_ga=1.146203383.238699419.1465397208

How Circles Work



It starts with you

While we can't guarantee you'll achieve your wildest dream, we can promise that joining a Circle will give you the support to go for it—more than 80% of members say they're more likely to take on a new challenge or opportunity because of their Circle.



Power of peer support

Research shows that we are more confident and are able to learn and accomplish more in small groups. To get the most out of your Circle, we recommend eight to twelve members at similar stages in life and/or with shared goals.



Lean In Circles Online

- Step-by-step meeting guides and activities
- Expert videos on important topics and skills
- A group email and social feed so it's easy to stay in touch
- Materials to promote your Circle—including a logo!

SDDVA STAFF PARTICIPATE IN VA TOWN HALL

SDDVA's Erin Bultje, Caitlyn Zylstra, Mike Maske and Heather Bullerman attended the VA's Town Hall meeting last night at the DAV headquarters in Sioux Falls.

VA Undersecretary Danny Pummill keynoted the Town Hall. He greeted veterans and answered their questions.

One of the issues presented to Under Secretary Pummill was that veterans are not getting to talk to a person on the phone when they call the halo line. Pummill noted that the VA has hired 400 phone operators and they intend on hiring 300 more. Pummill also mentioned that there is a bill in Congress to change the regulations for appeals which should make the process quicker.

Concerns about the choice program were discussed. SFVAHCS Director Darwin Goodspeed touched on the fact that they do have community based agreements to send veterans out to local doctors if Choice can't get them an appointment in five days.

Other items discussed were claim times and the National work Que.

These town halls afford our staff the opportunity to hear directly from veterans about their concerns, challenges and frustrations, as well as learn what the VA and their team are doing to address these issues.



MARSHALL COUNTY PRESENTS APM DURING MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Seven families of deceased Korean War Veterans and one surviving War Veteran were awarded their Korean Ambassador Peace Medals at Memorial Day Services held in Britton May 30, 2016.

Dave Daberkow, Marshall County Veterans Service Officer, presided over the American Legion sponsored program.

Families of the Korean War Veterans were called forward by Dave Daberkow who presented a brief review of the each veterans Korean War Service. Mike Kraft, Commander of American Legion Post 80 at Britton presented the medals. (Photo courtesy of Britton Journal.)



HAMLIN COUNTY PRESENTS APM IN CASTLEWOOD

The Ambassador of Peace Medal was awarded to four Korean Veterans during a ceremony last Thursday at Post 250 in Castlewood.

The medals were presented by Hamlin County Veteran's Officer David Schaefer, S.D. House Representative Burt Tulson and District 5 Legion Commander Harry Boner.

Receiving the medals were Donald Brown, US Navy; Donald Hoftiezer, US Air Force; Stewart Seppanen, US Army; and Maurice Wilson, US Army.

Twenty medals were also presented to the families of Korean Veterans who are deceased, killed in action or missing in action.

The families honored were Lynn Abraham, US Air Force; Edwin E. Davis, US Army; James Goe-man, US Army; Robert Greenfield, US Army; Orvis Gantvoort, US Army; Donald Juntunen, US Air Force; Jerry Kastein, US Marine Corps; David Kittelson, US Army; Gene Klos, US Army KIA; Maynard Klos, US Air Force; Earl Linneman, US Navy; Gordon Skoglund, US Army; John Ohnstad, US Army; Loren Olsen, US Army; Leo Payer, US Army; Earl Pearson; US Air Force; Donald Pedersen, US Army; John Tuin, US Army MIA; Richard Walder, US Air Force; Earl Wilson, US Army. (Photos courtesy of LeeAnne Dufek—Hamlin County Publishing, Inc.).



Upcoming Events

Jun. 9-12—VFW State Convention—The Lodge at Deadwood
Jun. 14—Vietnam War Veterans Recognition—Custer Jr/Sr. High School (1645 Wildcat Lane) - 9:30 am (MT)
Jun. 14—Vietnam War Veterans Recognition—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home (2500 Minnekahta Avenue) - Hot Springs - 1:30 pm (MT)
Jun. 16-19—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota—Watertown
Jun. 21—VA Healthcare and VA Benefits Town Hall Meeting—DAV - Sioux Falls—5:00 pm (CT)
Jun. 29—Black Hills Veterans Job Fair—Central States Fair Grounds (915 Centre Street) - 11:00 am (MT)
Jul. 1—Buffalo Chip Annual Flag Raising Ceremony—West Gate Entrance off Ft. Meade Way—6:00 pm (MT)
Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
Jul. 13—SD Veterans Council—PVA Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Jul. 23-24—Sioux Falls Air Show
Aug. 22-25—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre Ramkota
Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)



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